GOVERNMENTOF ANDHRA PRADESH

A B S T R A C T

Public Services - Agriculture & Cooperation Department - Sri V.V. Ramesh, the then Mandal Agricultural Officer, Nuzendla, Guntur District – Allegations of failure to monitor and supervise all the 3 Acts, i.e., Seed/Fertilizer/ Pesticide in his jurisdiction and disobeyed the instructions of the Asst. Director of Agriculture ®, Vinukonda - Departmental proceedings issued under A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 - Imposed the Major Penalty of "Withholding of (3) Annual Grade Increment with cumulative effect"- Revision Petition Submitted – Admitted under rule 43 of A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 – Setting aside the Penalty – Orders – Issued.

AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (VIG.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.740 **Dated: 08/11/2022**

Read the following:

1. Proceedings No.Vig II (2) 15/2014, dt.23.07.2018, of the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.
2. Revision Petition dt.12.12.2021 of Sri V.V.Ramesh, Agricultural Officer (T.A.) O/o. Joint Director of Agriculture, Ongole Prakasam District.
3. Revision Petition dt.Nil. of Sri V.V. Ramesh, Agricultural Officer (T.A.A.) O/o. Joint Director of Agriculture, Ongole, Prakasam District received through Endt.No.019, dt.22.01.2022, of the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture.
4. Govt. Memo.No.AGC01-AGRI/2/2022-VIG-I, A&C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.12.01.2022 & 02.02.2022.
5. From the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P. Guntur, Letter No. Vig. II (2) AGC02-32027 (32)/5/2022, dt.04.05.2022, 13.06.2022, 14.07.2022 & 10.10.2022.

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O R D E R:

In the reference 1st read above, the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur has imposed the Major Penalty of "Withholding of (3) Annual Grade Increments with cumulative effect" on Sri V.V. Ramesh, the then Mandal Agricultural Officer, Nuzendla, Guntur District, as the charges held proved against him on the allegations levelled by the then Asst. Director of Agriculture, Vinukonda, that he has failed to monitor and supervise all the 3 Acts, i.e., Seed/Fertilizer/ Pesticide in his jurisdiction, encouraged clandestine business for pecuniary gains causing huge loss to Government Exchequer etc.

2. In the references 2nd & 3rd read above, Sri V.V. Ramesh, the then Mandal Agricultural Officer, Nuzendla, Guntur District and presently working as Agricultural Officer (T.A.) O/o. Joint Director of Agriculture, Ongole Prakasam District, has submitted a Revision Petition to the Government, stating that the then Asst. Director of Agriculture Vinukonda has complained against him only with vengeance in view of non-acceptance of the irregular policies tried to introduce while implementation of the Schemes and also with the support of the statements given by the culprits with grudge on him as he has seized un-authorized pesticides from them and hence requested to examine the whole issue and do justice in this matter.

3. The Government have admitted the Revision Petition submitted by Sri V.V. Ramesh, Agricultural Officer (T.A.) O/o. Joint Director of Agriculture, Ongole, under rule 43 of A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 and requested the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P. Guntur, in the reference 4th read above, to examine the Revision Petition and send a detailed report with his specific remarks/ recommendations thereon, along with concerned records for taking further action in the matter.

4. In the reference 5th read above, the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P. Guntur, has furnished the original records and stated that, based on the inquiry report, the Disciplinary Authority has awarded Penalty of "withholding of (3) Annual Grade Increments with cumulative effect" against Sri V.V.Ramesh, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Nuzendla, Guntur District and it holds good and their action is justified.

(P.T.O)

5. After careful examination of the original records, the Government have observed that the allegations levelled by the then Asst. Director of Agriculture, Vinukonda against Sri V.V.Ramesh, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Nuzendla, Guntur District, are without recorded proofs, except the suspicious statements given by Sri P.China Venkateswarlu, Sri A.Bala Krishna etc. of Murthyjapuram and Sri Puvvada Nageswara Rao of K.Zaddavaripalem. It seems that the conflict between these two arose out of defending self-image in discharging their official duties, thereby leading to disciplinary action/penalty against the Subordinate Officer (Mandal Agriculture Officer).

6. Since the allegations against Sri V.V. Ramesh, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Nuzendla, Guntur District, are baseless, the Articles of Charge issued against him cannot be treated as proved, keeping in view of the principles of Natural Justice and hence, under rule 40(1)(b) of A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991, the Government have decided to set aside the Penalty of "Withholding of (3) Annual Grade Increments with cumulative effect", imposed on him by the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, in the reference 1st cited.

7. Accordingly, the Government hereby, set aside the Major Penalty of "Withholding of (3) Annual Grade Increments with cumulative effect", imposed on Sri V.V. Ramesh, the then Mandal Agricultural Officer, Nuzendla, Guntur District and presently working as Agricultural Officer (T.A.) O/o. Joint Director of Agriculture, Ongole, Prakasam District, under rule 40(1)(b) of A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991.

8. The Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, shall take necessary further action in the matter, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

POONAM MALAKONDAIAH
CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RBKs &
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To:
The Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, along with original file bearing Rc.No. Vig.II(2)15/2014, containing CF(1-386 Pages) & NF (1-48 Pages).
Sri V.V. Ramesh, Agricultural Officer (T.A.) O/o. District Agriculture officer, Ongole, Prakasam District.
(through the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur)

Copy to:
The Prl. Accountant General, A.P., Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, A.P., Vijayawada.
The District Treasury Officer, Guntur/Prakasam.
The District Agriculture Officer, Guntur/Prakasam.
The OSD to Minister for Agriculture, A.P.
Sf/Sc

// FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER